

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to confirm that your child has been offered a place in Year 7 at Budmouth Academy in September 2021. Thank you for choosing us! We are very pleased to welcome another year group that is full with all 260 places having been allocated. So, whether you are joining us as a parent for the first time, or if you already have a child with us, welcome to Budmouth!

It seems remarkable to think that we have now entered a second year where restrictions linked to Covid-19 make some elements of our transition programme subject to uncertainty. However, we will be doing our level best to ensure that your child has a smooth transition and we look forward to working with them, you and their primary school to make sure that when they join us in September they can hit the ground running. I would like to draw your attention to some key dates in our transition calendar.

- **19th/20th May:** We will be inviting you and your child to attend a 15 minute **transition video meeting** with a member of our Senior Leadership Team. We held these last year and due to the success of them we have made them a permanent feature. It is an opportunity for us to find out a little more about your child and for you and them to ask any questions that you may have about curriculum choices and Tutor group allocations etc You will receive a letter of invitation nearer the time which will include technical instructions about conducting the meeting.
- **22nd/23rd June:** We very much hope to hold our **Parents' Transition Information Evenings** over these two evenings. At the moment, it is not yet clear if larger group gatherings such as this will be permitted at that stage. Historically we have welcomed in excess of 600 people to this event. To be more cautious with this, we are planning to split attendance over two evenings and then divide each evening into two sessions. This means that you will be invited to attend one session with fewer people in attendance. Our pastoral 'Schools': Turing, Shelley, Hawking and Attenborough will have one session each. You will receive a letter nearer the time confirming whether these 'face to face' evenings will be able to go ahead, with any further instructions.
- **6th July: Transition Day for Students.** This day has been identified as the day that all secondary schools in the area will hold their induction days. We were unable to hold these last year, but we are very hopeful that this year they will be able to go ahead, especially as our planned Open Morning and Open Evening events were cancelled in September. It will be a good chance for the students to meet their new classmates and get to know their new school a little better. Further details will be shared nearer the time.

In the meantime, our staff are already working hard behind the scenes to get things ready. Nita Dooley (Director of SEND and Inclusion) is liaising with the SENDCOs in primary schools to make sure that any relevant information is shared so that we can best support any identified additional needs. If you have any queries with regards to supporting additional needs, Nita can be reached by email: { [HYPERLINK "mailto:ndooley@budmouth-aspirations.org"](mailto:ndooley@budmouth-aspirations.org) }.

Jayne Guppy is Head of Attenborough School, and also oversees our transition process. She will be liaising with Year 6 teaching staff to gather important information that will help us place the student into their Tutor and teaching groups. She will also be writing to you in the summer term and sharing our 'Welcome Pack', which contains important information about things like school uniform ordering, setting up SIMS Pay (required to buy school meals) as well as other helpful information and forms that will need completing. For any general queries linked to the transition process, Jayne can be contacted by email: { [HYPERLINK "mailto:jguppy@budmouth-aspirations.org"](mailto:jguppy@budmouth-aspirations.org) }

I hope that you have found this information useful and we look forward to confirming the final details of these events with you. I really hope that the easing of restrictions will enable us to welcome you and your child to our campus in the summer term.

Finally, I hope also that your child is able to enjoy a really happy and successful final term in Year 6. As a parent myself, I know how exciting this time is for them and they will be looking forward to having new adventures. My advice to them is to enjoy every aspect of their last term at primary school. The new beginnings will be just around the corner.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Herbert', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Herbert
Principal